



ELSEVIER

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Preface

Le Centre Jacques Cartier is a French institution dedicated to cooperation between France and Canada in general and between the Rhône-Alpes region and Quebec in particular. The annual *Entretiens* alternate between the two countries and are filled with three day meetings in many disciplines, sometimes including mathematics and computer science. This volume collects the proceedings of two such occasions, the first in Lyon in 1987 (*Premiers entretiens du Centre Jacques Cartier*), the second in Montreal in 1988 (*Deuxièmes entretiens du Centre Jacques Cartier*). The editors wish to thank not only the contributors and the many referees but also the many supporters and patrons, too numerous to list here. The exceptions to the rule are Mr. Alain Bideau, the soul of the *Centre Jacques Cartier*, and the universities which provided the space and the support necessary for the smooth running of the conferences: Université Claude Bernard in Lyon and Université de Montréal.

The collection may seem eclectic — from pure mathematics to applied computer science — but such is the nature of the *entretiens*: multifaceted and crossing the boundaries.

A. Achache
G. Hahn
M. Pouzet
I. Rosenberg